

REQUIREMENTS FOR SEVERELY AND PROFOUNDLY DISABLED SPECIAL EDUCATION, K – 12 CERTIFICATE

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

An individual who holds the Early Childhood Education teaching certificate or the Early Childhood endorsement in combination with an Arizona Cross-Categorical, Emotional Disability, Learning Disability, Mental Retardation, Orthopedic / Other Health Impairment or Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education teaching certificate is not required to hold the Early Childhood Special Education certificate.

➤ PROVISIONAL SEVERELY AND PROFOUNDLY DISABLED SPECIAL EDUCATION, K – 12 CERTIFICATE

The Provisional certificate is valid for 3 years and is not renewable, but may be extended once for 3 years.

Requirements for the Provisional Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education certificate are:

1. Completed [Application for Certification](#)
2. Appropriate Fee (See *Application for Certification*)
3. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (**IVP**) fingerprint card (plastic). For more information visit the [Arizona Department of Public Safety](#) website or call (602) 223-2279.
4. A Bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited institution. Official transcript(s) required.
5. Option A, B, or C:
 - A. Completion of a teacher preparation program in severely and profoundly disabled education from an accredited institution.
 - B. Forty-five semester hours of education courses from an accredited institution including 21 semester hours of special education courses and 8 semester hours of practicum.
 - Special Education courses shall include: 1. Survey of exceptional students; 2. Teaching methodologies for students with severe and profound disabilities; 3. Foundations of instruction of students with severe and profound disabilities; 4. Diagnostic and assessment procedures for students with severe and profound disabilities; and 5. Electives in special education (if needed).
 - **Two years** of verified full-time teaching experience with students in grades Prekindergarten-12 who are severely and profoundly disabled may substitute for the 8 semester hours of practicum. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience.
 - C. A valid Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education certificate from another state.
6. Professional Knowledge Elementary Exam.

One of the following:

 - A. A passing score on the *NES Assessment of Professional Knowledge: Elementary* **OR** A passing score on the AEPA Professional Knowledge Elementary (replaced by the NES Assessment).
 - B. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
 - C. Three (3) years of full-time teaching severely and profoundly disabled special education, K-12. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience.
7. Subject Knowledge Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education Exam.

One of the following:

 - A. A passing score on the Subject Knowledge Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education (30) portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA).
 - B. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
 - C. Master's degree from an accredited institution in Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education.

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8. Structured English Immersion (SEI) Endorsement *

The SEI endorsement requires **ONE** of the following (option A, B, or C):

- A. Official transcript documenting a three (3) semester hours State Board approved SEI course or comparable SEI training from another state.
-OR-
- B. Certificate of training documenting completion of forty-five (45) clock hours of State Board approved SEI training or comparable SEI training from another state.
-OR-
- C. Teachers and administrators who hold a **Full** English as a Second Language (ESL) or **Full** Bilingual Education endorsement are exempt from the SEI requirement. Note: The Provisional ESL and Provisional Bilingual endorsements will **NOT** meet the SEI endorsement requirement.

* **Note:** The requirements for a SEI endorsement may be waived for a period not to exceed one year for individuals who graduate from administrator or teacher preparation programs that are not approved by the Arizona State Board of Education and meet all other certification requirements.

➤ **STANDARD SEVERELY AND PROFOUNDLY DISABLED SPECIAL EDUCATION, K – 12 CERTIFICATE**

The Standard certificate is valid for 6 years and may be renewed.

Requirements for the Standard Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education certificate are:

- 1. Qualify and hold the Provisional Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education certificate for **2 years**.
- 2. **Two years** of verified full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the Provisional certificate may be used to convert the Provisional certificate to a Standard certificate. Submit a conversion form signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel Director verifying 2 years of full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the Provisional certificate being converted.
- 3. Verification of 3 semester hours or 45 clock hours of state approved Structured English Immersion (SEI) training or comparable state approved SEI training from another state to qualify for the Full SEI endorsement.
***NOTE:** Individuals who hold a Full Bilingual or Full ESL endorsement are exempt from the SEI endorsement requirement.*
- 4. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (IVP) fingerprint card (plastic). For more information visit the [Arizona Department of Public Safety](http://www.AZED.GOV/EDUCATOR-CERTIFICATION/) website or call (602) 223-2279.